

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
July 30, 2012  
6:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Elected Officials Absent

Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jeff Burton, CRA Director  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Karen Simpson, Deputy Director-Finance  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Rick Wells, Chief of Police  
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION: FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 BUDGET

Mr. Freeman informed Commission that since the last meeting the General Fund and Enterprise Fund are now in a balanced position. He has provided Commission with Version #2 budget books that include a change summary on page 6 that summarizes all changes since the first version of budget books. Since Version #1, the City has received some of the remaining revenue estimation from the state. Communication Services Tax has decreased by more than previously budgeted. The rollback rate of \$5.2171 mills is being used for the Ad Valorem revenue assumptions. There have been a few changes to Version #2, primarily to CRA.

Information on page 8 reflects the fund balance projections that Commission asked for. Page 13 provides a breakdown regarding dollar changes in pension and wages from FY 2012 versus what is proposed for FY 2013. Total wages went from \$5.3 million to \$5.2 million. There was about a \$112,000 increase in the General Employees' Pension contribution and a \$58,000 increase in the Police Pension contribution. There has been about an 11 percent reduction in health insurance benefits based on renewal. Page 14 provides a detailed report regarding part-time positions as requested by Commission.

Commissioner Smith expressed concern regarding Mr. Burton's salary. He opined that Department Heads' salaries should be close in pay. Discussion ensued regarding Department Heads' salaries. Commissioner Smith requested a copy of the City rate study that was performed be provided to him.

Commissioner Cornwell requested that the CRA Budget be added online in black and white print only.

Regarding Worker's Compensation rates, Mrs. Simpson explained that the City has not received the bill from Florida League of Cities.

Commissioner Williams questioned the budgeted amount for police vests. Mrs. Simpson explained that they are paid for by a 50/50 matching grant. Commissioner Williams requested Staff provide something in the budget to signal Commission that an item is a matching grant item.

Commissioner Williams asked for further clarification regarding the two vacant Crossing Guard positions. Chief Wells explained that the positions are currently funded because one Crossing Guard is utilizing hours from the vacant positions.

Commissioner Smith discussed the Rib Fest. Mr. Freeman explained that the City does not sponsor the Rib Fest at this time. Mr. Burton informed Commission that in order for the CRA to fund a non-profit agency they have to meet certain criteria:

- How do they help with the removal of slum and blight in the CRA district
- What are they doing with the money
- Do they have a mechanism for auditing

Discussion ensued regarding sponsorship of Rib Fest. Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Burton to provide that information to the Executive Director of the Rib Fest.

Mr. Burton informed Commission that the CRA Advisory Board has approved the CRA Budget.

Mr. Freeman informed Commission that Staff is working on a proposal to bring forward the end of August regarding a one-time compensation to employees. The compensation would be given at the end of the calendar year. The money would come out of the current FY 2012 budget and would not affect the FY 2013 budget.

**The consensus of Commission was to cancel the July 31, 2012 budget workshop meeting.**

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes approved: August 20, 2012

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk